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ABSTRACT

How the Korean peninsula came to be divided in 1945 is discussed, and the stalemated situation that has existed since that time is described. This brief history is followed by lesson plans for grades 6-12. The lesson plans include goals and objectives, activities, and assessment techniques for teaching the following concepts: (1) territorial occupation by foreign troops, (2) self governance, (3) military aggression, territorial invasion, and sovereign nation, (4) military preparedness and keeping the peace, and (5) anti-Americanism and reunification campaign. Maps and reproductions of newspaper clippings that can be used in conjunction with the lesson plans are included as well as a 9-item bibliography and a list of 20 other resources. (JB)

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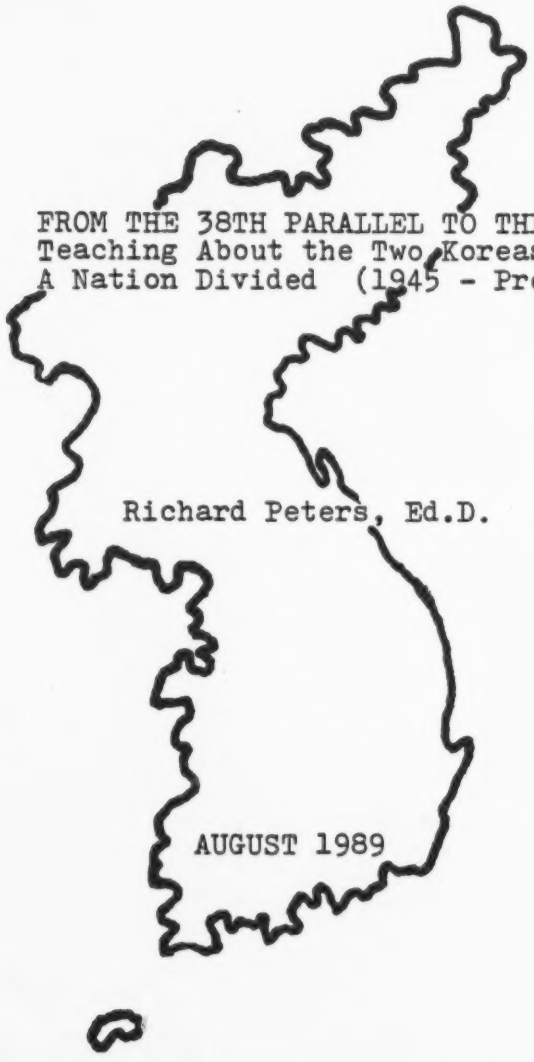

FROM THE 38TH PARALLEL TO THE DMZ
Teaching About the Two Koreas - A Nation Divided (1945 - Present)

Richard Peters, Ed.D.

AUGUST 1989

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Peters founded GLOBAL HORIZONS: THE CENTER FOR APPLIED ECO/SOCIAL STUDIES in 1981 to affect global awareness among students across the K-12 social studies curriculum.

Dr. Peters is experienced in public school education (social studies) as a classroom teacher (5-12); department chairman (9-12); K-12 district-wide curriculum coordinator; and director of teacher inservice training. Presently, he is Assistant Professor/Social Studies Education at The University of Maine/Presque Isle.

Dr. Peters was the recipient of a Fulbright Summer Seminars Abroad grant to study culture and history in the Republic of Korea. He has studied about and been to the 38th Parallel and to the DMZ as well as to P'anmunjŏm in July 1989.

Special thanks to the United States Information Service (USIS), and to the American Cultural Center Library staff, Seoul, Korea.

WHITE PAPER

The Empire of Japan occupied the Korean peninsula from 1910 - 1945. In August (1945), United States forces accepted the Japanese surrender south of the 38th parallel, and the Soviet Union accepted the surrender north of the line of demarcation. SEE MAP I

From 1945 - 1948, the United States operated a military government in South Korea, and the Soviet Union organized a Communist regime in North Korea (1946) under the leadership of Kim Il-sŭng.

In 1948, elections were held in South Korea under United Nations supervision. Syngman Rhee was elected President and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was created. In the north, Kim Il-sŭng ruled the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Thus, two completely different political/economic systems were constructed on the same cultural base.

By December 1948, the last Soviet troops had left North Korea, and by June 1949 only a small United States advisory group remained in South Korea. While the Soviet Union heavily armed North Korea, the United States relied upon its troop strength in Japan for a defense of the peninsula.

On June 25, 1950 North Korean forces crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. Meeting only light ROK forces resistance, North Korean forces captured Seoul on June 28th, and began to drive ROK forces southward.

The United Nations Security Council responded to this invasion by creating a sixteen nation force under the command

of United States General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. SEE APPENDIX I

Prior to the arrival of United Nations forces, United States Army infantry divisions in Japan were rushed to Korea to fight a delaying action; buying time until the military strength necessary to take the offensive arrived. July 5, 1950 artillery fire upon advancing North Korean tanks and ground troops, near Osan, marked United States combat involvement in this 'police action' .

By September 1950, United Nations forces had been pushed southward to a defensive perimeter around Pusan. Only the successful invasion at Inchon saved the day for the United Nations forces, and changed the course of the war. SEE MAP II Now, the North Korean forces were fighting a two-front war; enemy forces in the south and advancing United Nations forces from the north.

The Soviet Union continued to supply weapons to the North Korean government including MIG fighters, tanks, and ground weapons such as rifles, anti-tank weapons, and artillery pieces. The United States introduced the use of the helicopter as a weapon of war as well as a means of evacuating wounded from combat zones to MASH units in the rear.

When the United Nations offensive was launched, it quickly crushed the North Korean forces... driving them north toward the Manchurian border.

The threat of United Nations forces advancing to its border with North Korea, and talk of using the Atomic bomb to wipe out enemy resistance along the border caused the People's Republic of China to send hundreds-of-thousands of volunteers into the battle. The Chinese took the offensive and United Nations forces suffered heavy casualties.

Bitter fighting ensued and in July 1951 truce negotiations were begun. Within a matter of weeks the talks were broken off and any hopes of a quick ending to the fighting were dashed in the process. Fierce fighting continued for control of the countryside. Casualties on both sides steadily mounted.

On October 8, 1951 United Nations/Communist North Korean representatives began meeting again - this time at the mud hut village called P'anmunjŏm.

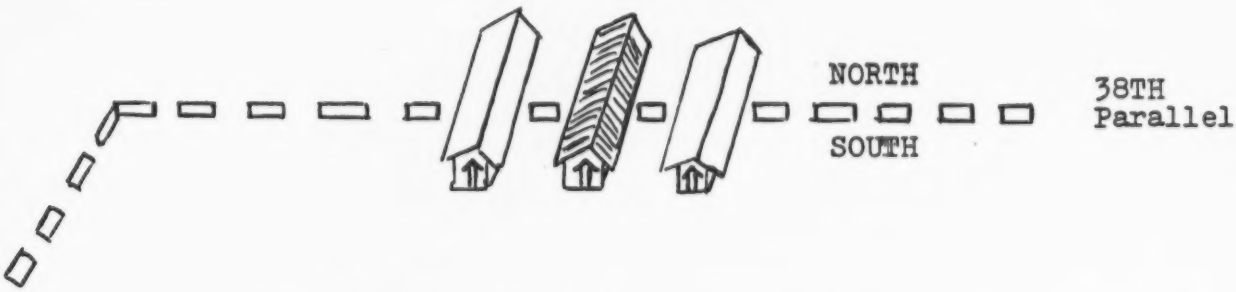
After months of debate and delay, a truce went into effect on July 27, 1953. The border between North/South Korea was determined by the position of opposing forces on the day the truce took effect. The 38th Parallel was not, therefore, the line dividing the two Koreas from east to west. SEE MAP III

DMZ

Even though the truce agreement has been in effect for 36 years, the threat of all out war still exists. A United Nations Support Group located at Camp Bonifas is in front of them all ... located only a few yards from the truce talk site at P'anmunjŏm.

The demilitarized zone, with a mined no man's land, is about 4,000 meters wide and stretches 243 kilometers (151 miles) across the peninsula.

The creation of t e demilitarized zone (DMZ) made the border between North/South Korea one of the most effective artificial barriers in the world.



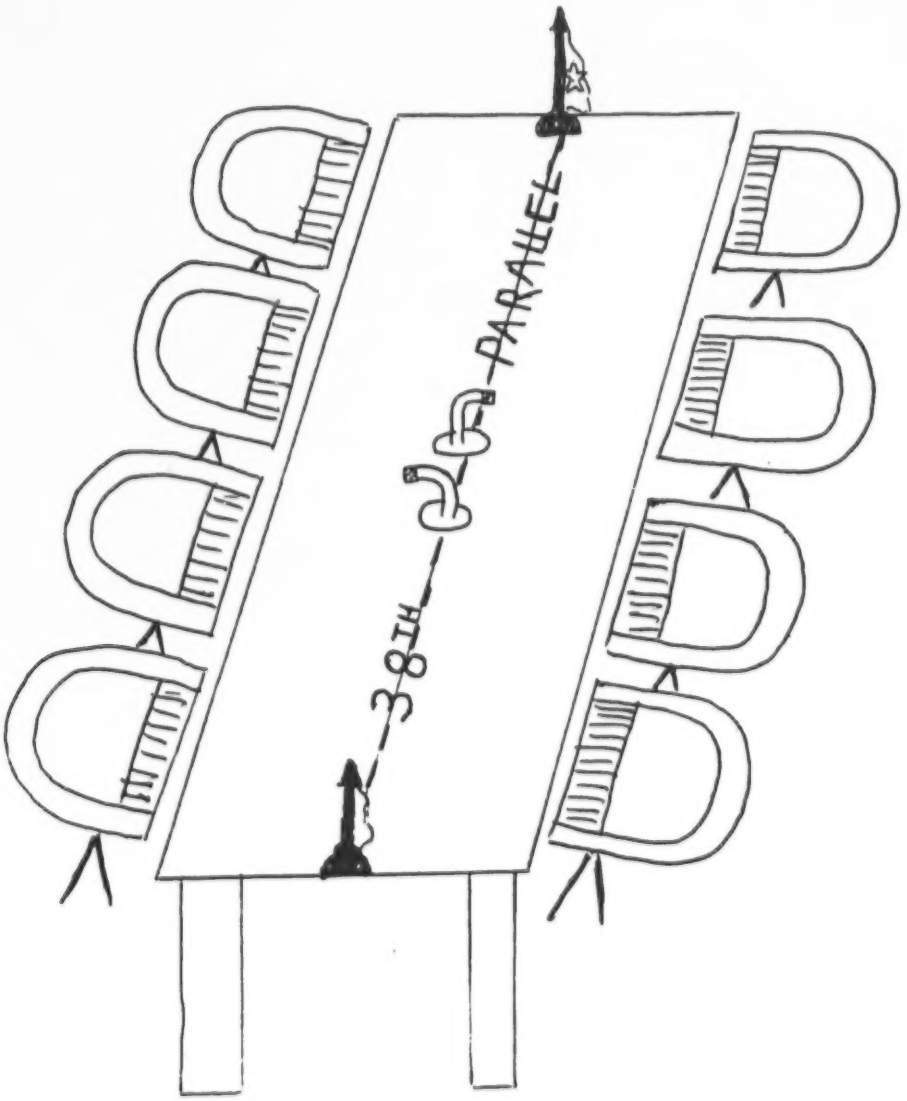
JOINT SECURITY AREA IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE
AT P'ANMUNJŎM

United Nations and North Korean representatives (Military Armistice Commission) meet periodically in the Joint Security Area to discuss issues of concern.

The P'anmunjŏm truce camp is the ONLY point of official contact between MAC representatives.

The actual location where the talks take place is a simple barracks-like shed (CENTER IN THE DIAGRAM ABOVE) which is split exactly in half at the North-South demarcation line. The line runs down the middle of a green felt-covered conference table; United Nations MAC representatives sitting on one side facing

representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea across from them.



A Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), consisting of representatives from Switzerland and Sweden, monitors the uneasy truce.

In recent years, several incidents have nearly touched off a resumption of hostilities between the two opposing sides.

1970s — The United States spy ship, Pueblo, was captured in North Korean waters. The crew returned to the Republic of Korea via the Bridge of No Return (located at the P'anmunjŏm site) several months later.

North Korean security guards crossed the 38th Parallel and attacked a United Nations work detail. Two UN Security Forces personnel were killed.

1980s — An American CH47 Chinook helicopter was shot down north of the DMZ.

A firefight south of the demarcation line when North Korean forces chased after a Soviet defector who had crossed the 38th Parallel.

Grades 6-12 LESSONS

CONCEPT(S) Territorial Occupation by foreign troops.

GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S)

To familiarize students with the surrender of the Empire of Japan in August 1945.

To familiarize students with the establishment of a United States military government in South Korea.

To familiarize students with the establishment of a Communist regime in North Korea by the Soviet Union.

ACTIVITIES

1) Audiovisuals and print materials will be used to introduce students to the last months of World War II in the Pacific.
With President Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan, the war quickly came to an end on August 15, 1945.

2) Students will be introduced to a map of East Asia, and attention will be focused on the Korean peninsula re proximity to the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, Japan, and Taiwan.

3) Students will be introduced to a world map and attention will be focused on the proximity of the Korean peninsula re the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

4) A slide/tape presentation (or films/filmstrips/ video tapes) will be shown to introduce students to the culture and history of the Korean peninsula.

5) Print materials will be used to introduce students to the establishment of foreign-dominated political systems in North/South Korea in 1945.

6) Students will draw maps of the Korean peninsula and will divide the nation at the 38th Parallel.

7) Students will research and develop reports re Communist North Korea, United States controlled South Korea, the oppression of the Korean people during the Japanese occupation (1910-1945), and personalities such as Harry S Truman, Dean Rusk, Kim Il-sŭng, Syngman Rhee, and Joseph Stalin.

8) Guest speakers who were in Korea from 1945-1948 meet with students to discuss their experiences and impressions.

9) Students create bulletin board displays re the topics discussed and studied.

10) Students write to the United States Department of Defense re historical information pertaining to the years 1945-1948 in Korea.

ASSESSMENT

1) Map work
2) Reports/projects
3) Group discussions
4) Discussions with guest speakers
5) Application of researching skills to assigned tasks
6) Quizzes/tests

CONCEPT(S) Self Governance

GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S) To familiarize students with the creation of two independent states on the Korean peninsula in 1948.

ACTIVITIES

1) Students will research print materials to understand that Communism was an active political force throughout the Korean peninsula during the time of Japanese occupation (1910-1945).

2) Students will research print materials to understand the role the Soviet Union played in the creation of a Communist state in North Korea.

3) Students will research print materials to understand the United States' military rule of South Korea from 1945-1948.

4) Students will familiarize themselves with several geographical and political locations on/around the Korean peninsula, e.g., Seoul, P'yongyang, Pusan, Inchon, the East Sea (Tonghae), the South Sea (Namhae), the West Sea (Sohae), Mt. Sorak, Chejudo Island, the Yalu River, the Han River, the Imjin River.

5) Students will research and develop reports re independent political states in North and South Korea, personalities, the foreign policies of the Soviet Union and the United States, the culture/history of the Korean peninsula, and geography.

6) Students create bulletin board displays.

7) Guest speakers who lived in South Korea from 1948-1950 meet with students to discuss their experiences and impressions.

ASSESSMENT

1) Reports/projects

2) Map work

3) Group discussions

4) Discussions with guest speakers

5) Application of researching skills to assigned tasks

6) Quizzes/tests

CONCEPT(S)

Military Aggression
Territorial Invasion
Sovereign Nation

GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S)

To familiarize students with the North Korean invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950.

To familiarize students with the United Nations Security Council's decision to resist aggression on the Korean peninsula.

To familiarize students with the effects of a cease fire truce on the Korean peninsula following 1951-1953 truce negotiations.

ACTIVITIES

1) Students will be introduced to a variety of audiovisual/print materials re the origins, nature, and outcome(s) of the Korean War (1950-1953). Reports will be developed and presented to the class.

2) Students will familiarize themselves with leading personalities of the time, e.g., Douglas MacArthur, Harry S Truman, Matthew Ridgway, Syngman Rhee, Kim Il-sŏng.

3) Students will create a bulletin board display depicting major battles/offenses of the war; 1950-1953.

4) Students will develop class reports re the several nations who committed combat troops to the United Nations force.

5) Students write to the United Nations (NYC) for Korean War background information and available materials.

6) Students develop class reports re the economic/political/social development of North/South Korea since 1953.

7) Students will familiarize themselves with the importance of the 38th Parallel and the DMZ in modern Korean history.

8) Guest speakers who fought in the Korean War or individuals who lived in Korea during the war years meet with students and discuss their experiences and impressions.

9) Guest speakers who presently live in South Korea and/or those who have travelled to North/South Korea meet with students and discuss their experiences and impressions.

10) Students create a bulletin board display of the flags of the several nations involved in the Korean War in combatant and non-combatant roles.

ASSESSMENT

1) Map work

2) Reports/projects

3) Group discussions

4) Discussions with guest speakers

5) Application of researching skills to assigned tasks

6) Quizzes/tests

CONCEPT(S) Military Preparedness

Keeping the Peace

GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S) To familiarize students with the 36 year history of truce maintenance between North/South Korea.

To familiarize students with the role of the United States in helping to maintain the peace on the Korean peninsula.

ACTIVITIES

1) Audiovisual/print materials will be used to recap the 36 year history of the DMZ.

2) Students write to the United Nations (NYC) and to the United States Department of State (Washington, DC) to obtain reference materials.

3) Guest speakers who have attended and/or participated in P'anmunjŏm truce talks meet with students to discuss their experiences and impressions.

4) Students create bulletin board displays re the 36 year history of the DMZ and the uneasy truce between North/South Korea.

5) Students role play a MAC meeting at P'anmunjŏm. This activity can be video taped.

6) Students will develop class reports re the role(s) of the United States, Switzerland, and Sweden in the peace keeping effort.

7) Students will develop class reports re the United States 8th Army in Korea.

8) Students will collect/compare newspaper coverage of the peace keeping effort, and of P'anmunjðm events over the course of the past 36 years. Reports can be developed and presented to the class.

ASSESSMENT

1) Map work

2) Reports/projects

3) Role playing

4) Group discussions

5) Discussions with guest speakers

6) Application of researching skills to assigned tasks

7) Quizzes/tests

Panmunjom in Spotlight

Im Seeks to Return Through Truce Village

Panmunjom is once again in the limelight as Miss Im Su-kyong, a South Korean University coed now attending on a Pyongyang-hosted peace march, has reportedly pledged to return home tomorrow through the truce village.

The 20-year-old student activist snuck into Pyongyang on June 30 to attend the July 1-8 World Festival of Youth and Students and is now in Kaesong, on a leg of the peace march from Mt. Paektu on the Korean-Chinese border to Mt. Halla in the southernmost island of Cheju.

In defiance of a government ban, she said she would pass over the Demarcation Line, halving the Korean peninsula, to return home at the risk of her life.

North Korea is also learned to be pushing ahead with its scheme to send her back to Seoul through Panmunjom with the prior agreement of the United Nations Command and the South Korean government.

But the government, suspecting her attempt to be a mere political propaganda designed to draw world attention to the division of the Korean peninsula, denied North Korea's call that she be guaranteed safety on her return home by way of the village.

Upon her arrival in the southern side of Panmunjom, that will surely causes serious conflict between the United Nations Command and the North Korean authorities, both exercising jurisdiction over the village, she will be arrested on charges of violating the National Security Law that bans unauthorized trips to North Korea, a security source said.

Security agents are learned to be seeking a warrant to arrest her in violation of the security law that carries up to capital punishment or a life sentence.

The government also does not rule out the possibility that she will come home via a third country like the Rev. Moon Ik-hwan who returned home from Pyongyang via Beijing and Tokyo in April.

To handle that eventuality, security agents stationed abroad have been put on full alert, especially in Japan, Hong Kong and West Germany.

Unlike the previous illegal Pyongyang trips by the Rev. Moon Ik-hwan and lawmaker Suh Kyung-won, both in the custody of the Agency for National Security Planning for initial probes, the National Police Headquarters will take charge of investigation of the university coed, the source said.

But the NPH investigators are learned to be collaborating with NSP security officers to launch a thorough probe into the controversial case.

The interrogation will center on revealing the alleged masterminds who pulled strings behind the scenes for her trip to Pyongyang and her activities while in the North.

Police already have obtained evidence to prove that Chondaehyop leaders communicated through facsimile or long distance calls with North Korean organizers of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students before her participation in the festival.

Meanwhile, student activists are determined to stage a rally to welcome her at the Yonsei University campus in western Seoul. But police have decided to block the rally, by sealing off the campus.

Police gained a warrant to search and confiscate the university Monday.

Some Chondaehyop leaders tried, in vain, to hold a press meeting yesterday at the office of the Sungkyunkwan University student council.

7/25/89

* * *

SEOUL (UPI) – The American-led United Nations Command (UNC) told North Korea Tuesday that it cannot agree to a request that a South Korean college coed who attended a world youth festival in the North be allowed to return home through the border between the two Koreas.

The UNC sent a message to the North Korean component of the Korean Military Armistice Commission in reply to two North Korean messages concerning the coed, a command announcement said. The North Korean messages came on last Wednesday and Monday.

CONCEPT(S) Anti-Americanism

Reunification

GOAL(S)/OBJECTIVE(S) To familiarize students with growing anti-Americanism in South Korea.

To familiarize students with the activities of student radicals on South Korean campuses.

To familiarize students with the campaign for North/South Korea reunification.

ACTIVITIES

1) What is anti-Americanism? Why does it exist in South Korea, today?

2) What is reunification? Why would South Koreans want to unify with Communist North Korea?

3) What is a command economy? What is a market economy? Can these two economic philosophies coexist in a unified Korea?

4) Students write to the United States Department of State, and to the United States Information Agency (Washington, DC) for background data.

5) Guest speakers who have lived in and/or visited South Korea discuss anti-Americanism, the radical students movement, and reunification; their experiences and impressions.

6) Students develop class reports and bulletin board displays re topics discussed/studied.

ACTIVITIES

1) Map work
2) Reports/projects
3) Group discussions
4) Discussions with guest speakers
5) Application of researching skills to assigned tasks
6) Quizzes/tests

Korea Times

Police check students and vehicles in front of Sungkyunkwan University Tuesday in an effort to arrest Chondaehyop leaders who tried, in vain, to hold a press meeting at the university, in which they were to denounce the government ban on Thursday's scheduled passing through Panmunjom by Miss Im Su-kyong.

7/25/89

2 Collegians Held For Trying to Seize USIS Building

Police yesterday arrested two of the six collegians who attempted to seize the U.S. Information Service building in downtown Seoul Monday on charges of violation of the National Security Law and put the four others on the wanted list.

7/26/89

Park Yong-un, 22, a trade department senior, and Cha Tae-gun, 21, a Chinese literature senior, both of Korea University were arrested while Kim Sok-gyu, 23, a geography education senior at Seoul National University, and the three others continue to be sought by the police.

The six radical students tried to sneak into the USIS building but their attempt was foiled when Park was seriously injured during an attempt to climb the building.

(第三種郵便物認可) THE KOREA TIMES

Students, Priests Try to Reach Panmunjom

Tension Mounting High Over Seoul Coed Return

Tension is mounting high as Catholic priests and student activists are determined to reach Panmunjom today to welcome Im Su-kyong, a South Korean university coed, who is seeking to return from her 28-day North Korean tour by passing through the truce village.

The Catholic Priests' Association for Justice said yesterday it would push ahead with march to the village to greet the coed and Fr. Moon Kyu-hyun, who flew into Pyongyang yesterday to accompany her.

Fr. Nam Kuk-hyon, leader of the priests association, and other 16 priests said they would set out today for the truce village in defiance of a government ban.

The priests will join forces with student activists who are planning to hold rallies across the country, timed with Im's home-coming.

Leaders of Chondaehyop, the nation's largest student activist alliance, said that no massive rallies have been yet set up. But sporadic rallies are expected to occur in major cities.

A welcoming delegation, to consist of between 20 and 40 student representatives, will also head for the truce village to receive Im, a 20-year-old senior at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the Chondaehyop leaders said.

The coed snuck into Pyongyang on June 30 to take part in the July 1-8 World Festival of Youth and Students and is approaching the finishing point of the North Korean-hosted international peace march for national reunification started in Mt. Paektu in the northernmost peninsula on July 19.

On Tuesday, Cho Kwang-son, chief of Chondaehyop's public relations bureau, called Hanyang University to deliver the student alliance's message demanding that the government allow the coed to cross over the truce village on her homeward trip.

Chondaehyop leader Im Chong-sok also demanded in his letters delivered to the Hanyang University press office that the United Nations Command permit Im to return home by way of Panmunjom as she wishes.

In the statement, he urged the government to withdraw its scheme to take legal action against the coed and to crack down on dissidents and student activists.

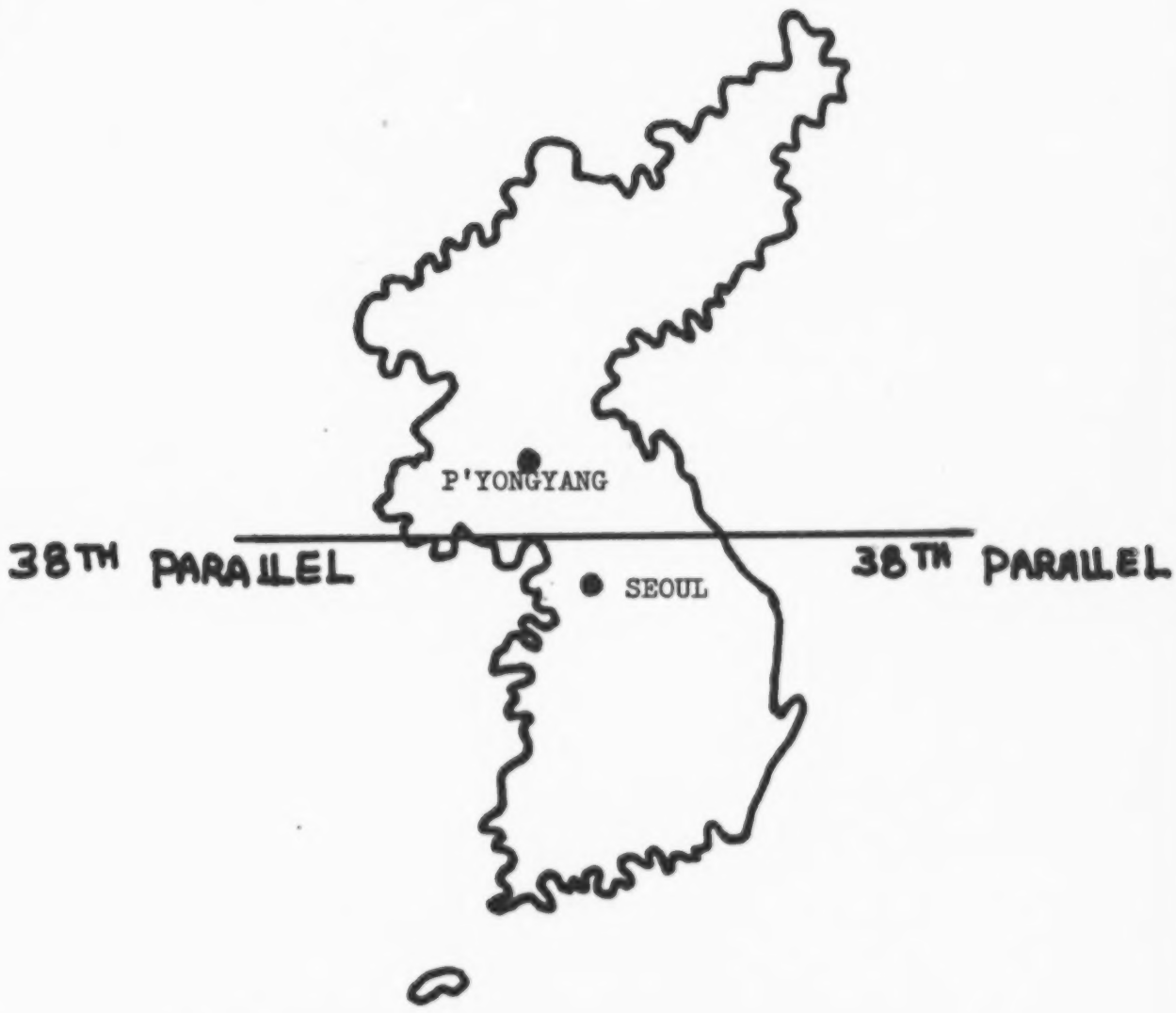
Im's letters were addressed to President Roh Tae-woo, presidents of the opposition parties and the UNC commander.

Meanwhile, police decided to foil any kind of rally or march to welcome the coed upon her arrival through the truce village.

Thousands of riot troopers have been already deployed in downtown streets of major cities and checkpoints around Tongil-ro, the way leading to the truce village.

7/24/89

MAP I



In 1945, the nation of Korea was divided at the 38th Parallel for purposes of accepting the surrender of Japanese forces at the end of World War II.

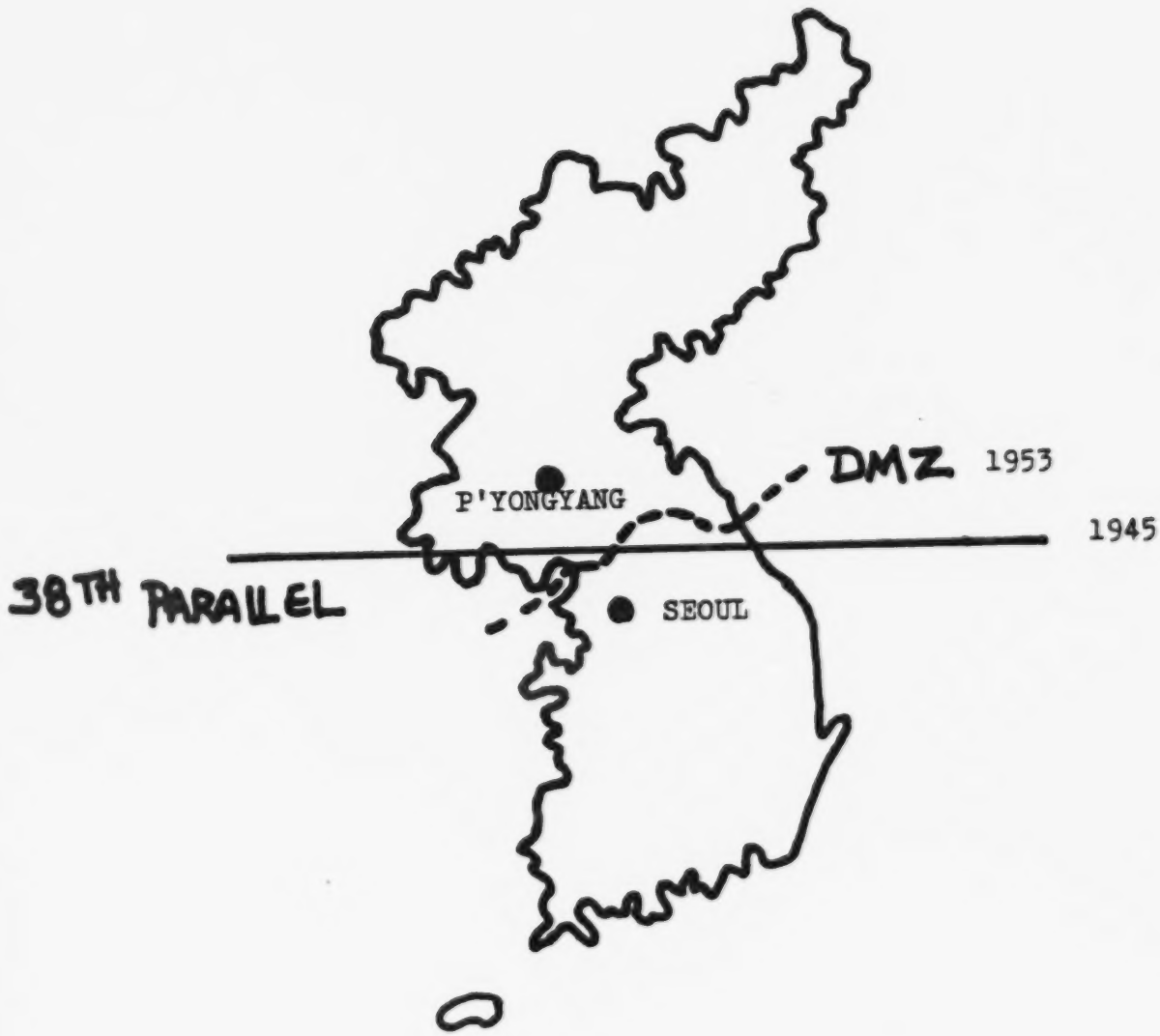
MAP II

As North Korean forces mounted an attack upon United Nations forces defending the Pusan perimeter, MacArthur's successful invasion of Inchon changed the course of the war.

MAP III

In 1953, a demilitarized zone (DMZ) was established across the Korean peninsula.

MAP IV



APPENDIX I

The United Nations force during the Korean War (1950-1953) included military personnel from . . .

Commonwealth of Australia

Kingdom of Belgum

Canada

Republic of Columbia

Empire of Ethopia

French Republic

Republic of Greece

Grand Duchy of Luxemburg

Kingdom of Netherlands

Dominion of New Zealand

Republic of Philippines

Kingdom of Thailand

Republic of Turkey

Republic of South Africa

United Kingdom

United States of America

India provided non-combatant medical assistance.

Republic of Korea (ROK) forces comprised the largest segment of fighting forces in the war against North Korean aggression.

APPENDIX II

Kim Il-sung Deifies Self In Atheist Nation of Regimentation, Obedience

By Jim Abrams

PYONGYANG (AP) — He is the "great leader" whose deeds are praised, whose portrait and words are everywhere. Kim Il-sung has nearly deified himself in his self-made, atheist nation of regimentation and mass obedience.

President Kim, who is 77 and has ruled North Korea since the peninsula was divided in 1945, has crafted an unmatched cult of personality.

Four-year-olds at Changgwang Kindergarten in Pyongyang sit around a detailed model of his birthplace, singing and chanting of his exploits. Children in another room chirp: "We wish good health and long life to comrade Marshal Kim Il-sung."

At a nearby middle school, a 15-year-old recites to her English class: "Thanks to the great leader and the dear leader, we have no worries about food or housing, and we all lead happy lives."

The dear leader is the president's son and heir apparent, Kim Jong-il.

A chair and desk in the library of Kim Il-sung University form a shrine, covered with a white cloth. Kim sat there during a visit to the university in 1970.

Stuffed animals he donated fill a display room at the university, which also contains a shotgun the great leader provided so students could add to the collection.

At the main entrance of every school, institution, store, office and factory is a larger-than-life portrait of Kim Il-sung in an appropriate situation.

Hospitals show him counseling doctors; schools portray him receiving the adulation of children; in bookstores, his image bends over weighty tomes.

Visitors to a factory or school are told how Kim stood on a nearby hill to order it built and later provided "on-the-spot guidance" now and then.

Li Hung-son of Pyongyang's largest textile mill said Kim had visited it 48 times.

"Only under the wise guidance of great leader Kim Il-sung have we achieved prosperity," he declared.

Kim Ho-sok of the Hakpan collective farm outside Pyongyang said Kim had visited 18 times to teach farmers which crops to grow and how to manage the enterprise.

"Parents only give children life, but the great leader takes care of all the people," he said.

A huge stone monument that dominates the farm entrance is emblazoned with the words he uttered during his visits.

Nearly every room of every home has a portrait of the great leader, often accompanied by one of the dear leader. Adults wear badges with Kim Il-sung's picture just above the heart.

From billboards and statues, Kim observes the streets and subway stations of Pyongyang. An arch of triumph replica 60 meters (200 feet) high honors his achievements as a young revolutionary.

More than 40,000 people a day visit the shrine of Mangyongdae, the thatch-roofed farmhouse on Pyongyang's outskirts where Kim was born in 1912. Equal numbers go to the Korean Revolution Museum, which has 100 rooms and 140,000 items relating to his revolutionary accomplishments.

Accounts in the museum say Kim's great-grandfather helped sink a "U.S. pirate ship" that was scouting possible invasion routes in 1866. They say his father was a leader in fighting the Japanese, who ruled Korea from 1910 to 1945, and that he died young after imprisonment and torture.

The great leader himself, it is said, left home at 13 to join the resistance and founded Korea's first Communist organization a year later.

Works by and about Kim fill Pyongyang's bookstores.

One volume is titled "A Great Man." It begins by saying that history has recorded the stories of many great men, but "none can match those of General Kim Il-sung, genius of mankind produced by Korea in the 20th century."

His appearance in public can ignite a near-frenzy of celebration. At opening ceremonies of an international youth festival in Pyongyang, Kim's arrival on his dais was the signal for fireworks to explode, doves to be released, trumpets to sound and thousands of Koreans to genuflect worshipfully.

THE KOREA TIMES
7/27/89

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